

Informal Conference

6:00 p.m. March 9, 2009

Application #1003841

Andover Methodist Church

Appalachia, Virginia

1. Doors were open to the public at 5:30 p.m.
2. The conference began at 6:00 p.m. with welcome by Gavin Bledsoe (DMME, facilitator)
3. Purpose of the meeting – to receive comments on the permit application – the application is technically complete enough for the DMLR to receive public comments and concerns.
4. General overview of how meeting would be conducted –
 - DMLR staff were present to respond to inquiries as to location of certain information in the permit application. The application and surface water hydrology maps were displayed and a paper copy of the application & corresponding Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 permit application (9 volumes) were provided for review.
 - individual comments would be taken in an adjoining room.
5. Media - Reporters (2) from [The Post](#) were present. Two (2) college students asked permission to video the individual comments & were allowed to do so as long as the individual did not object (only 1 person objected and videoing was not conducted of that person).
6. DMLR staff present: Harve Mooney, Legal Services Officer; Marilyn Gates, DMLR Office Services Specialist (serving as conference recorder); Ken Artrip, Reclamation Inspector; Les Vincent, Technical Services Manager; Jackie Davis, Division Director; Greg Baker, Reclamation Program Manager; and Mike Giles, DMLR Area Supervisor.
7. Others present: representative of permit applicant and representative of the consultant D. R. Allen & Associates.
8. Attendees were informed of the DMLR decision process –
 - Within 60 days from the close of the conference to approve, disapprove, or require additional information.
 - Permittee and Commenter would be informed in writing of the DMLR's decision on the application as well as the right to administrative review of such.
9. Comments regarding the application were taken in Conference Room 211.
10. Comments were received from 38 persons (transcript to be prepared) – some of the concerns raised included - conduct of informal conference, impacts to receiving streams, coal truck traffic, amount of area to be mined, location/impact to communities; blasting impacts, dust, destruction of mountains by surface mining, etc.
11. After receiving comments from all persons who wished to provide such, the conference was closed at 8:30 p.m.